

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of installing a device driver for a newly installed hardware device in a system, the method comprising:~~
installing a first device driver;
~~deinstalling the first device driver; and~~
installing an operative device driver which enables a the newly installed hardware device and a the system to operate together [[.]] ; and
deinstalling the first device driver upon installation of the operative device driver.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the first device driver does not enable the hardware device and the system to operate together.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising, prior to installing the first device driver:
receiving a request from an operating system of the system to identify the operative device driver from among a plurality of possible device drivers.

9. (Original) A method of installing a device driver for a hardware device in a computer having an operating system and executing under control of a user, the method comprising:
providing a plurality of drivers, any of which may become installed as the device driver;
providing a common driver which may not become installed as the device driver;
the operating system requesting that the user identify the device driver;
receiving from the user an identification of the common driver as the device driver;

installing the common driver;
receiving from the user an identification of an operating system interface through which the hardware device should communicate with the operating system;
deinstalling the common driver; and
installing one of the plurality of drivers as the device driver, in accordance with the identification of the operating system interface.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the hardware device comprises a communication device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the hardware device comprises a DSL card.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the operating system interface is selected from a group comprising at least an NDISWAN interface and an NDIS interface.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the operating system interface is selected from a group comprising at least a PPPoA interface and an RFC 1483 Bridged Ethernet interface.

14. (Original) A machine-accessible medium including thereon instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform a method comprising:
receiving from an operating system of the machine a request to identify a driver;
prompting a user to identify the driver;
receiving from the user an identification of a common driver;
delivering the identification of the common driver to the operating system to satisfy the operating system's request;
installing the common driver;
receiving from the user an identification of an operating system interface

through which a component is to access the operating system;

deinstalling the common driver;

installing a first driver from a plurality of available drivers for the component, the first driver being selected from the plurality in accordance with the identification of the operating system interface.

15. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 14 including thereon further instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform the method further comprising:

preparing a list of data which the user is to collect;

presenting the list to the user;

receiving the data from the user; and

configuring one or more features of the machine in accordance with the data.

16. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 14 including thereon further instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform the method further comprising:

determining whether the operating system is sufficiently complete to enable the operating system interface; and

if not, further installing the operating system to enable the operating system interface.

17. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 14 wherein the common driver is a do-nothing driver.

18. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 14 wherein the common driver is stored in a root directory of a removable storage device.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~satisfying an operating system's request that a user identify a software component to be installed, in the presence of a plurality of~~

~~possible such software components, the method comprising:~~

receiving a request to identify a software component to be installed, the software component one of a plurality of possible software components;

in response to the request, providing to the operating system an
identification of a placeholder software component which is not one of the plurality of possible software components;

installing the placeholder software component;

deinstalling the placeholder software component; and

installing one of the plurality of possible software components.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the deinstalling being done after and in response to:

prompting the user to gather data; and

receiving the data from the user.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising the installing one of the plurality of possible software components being done after and in response to:

receiving from the user an identification of one of a plurality of types of interface through which the respective possible software components are able to access the operating system.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising:

decoding the one of the plurality of possible software components prior to its installation.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the software components comprise drivers.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the drivers comprise DSL drivers.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
determining whether ~~the~~ an operating system is a complete enough install
to enable operation of the software component to be installed; and, if not,
installing additional elements of the operating system.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for use with equipment of a first
predetermined type, the apparatus comprising:~~

an operating system including a plurality of interfaces to equipment of a
corresponding plurality of types, one of which is a ~~the~~ first predetermined type, and
including a driver ID demander; and

a wizard including a common driver which, when identified to the driver ID
demander satisfies the driver ID demander's requirement to identify one of the plurality
of interfaces.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the common driver
comprises a do-nothing driver.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising:
a driver of the first predetermined type; and
the wizard being adapted to deinstall the common driver upon installation
of the driver of the first predetermined type.

29. (Original) An apparatus for installation into a device to connect the device
to equipment of a first predetermined type, the device including software which includes
a plurality of interfaces to equipments of a plurality of types including the first
predetermined type and which requests an identification of a driver in response to
installation of a device that utilizes one of the plurality of interfaces, the apparatus
comprising:

a hardware device for providing communication to the equipment;
a driver of the first predetermined type;

a common driver; and

a wizard for installing the common driver in response to the software requesting the identification of the driver, and for deinstalling the common driver and installing the driver of the first predetermined type in response to receiving information identifying the equipment as being of the first predetermined type.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the equipment is internet service provider equipment and wherein:

the hardware device comprises a DSL card.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein:

the common driver is a do-nothing driver.

32. (New) A method comprising:

installing a first element on a processor-based system;

temporarily installing a common element on the processor-based system during the installation of the first element, the installation of the common element in response to a demand for the identification of an interface for the first element; and deinstalling the common element upon the installation of the interface.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein installing a first element includes installing a hardware device, and temporarily installing a common element includes temporarily installing a common driver in response to a demand for the identification of a device driver for the hardware device.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 including identifying an operating system interface through which the device driver is able to access the operating system.

35. (New) The method of claim 33 including generating a page to indicate information that is needed for installation of the hardware device.

36. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein installing a first element includes installing a software application.